

first. The good news is, help is on the way.

HONORING REVEREND MARLENE FAYE WHITERABBIT HELGEMO

(Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the life of Reverend Marlene Faye Whiterabbit Helgemo.

Marlene was a powerful Ho-Chunk woman and strong leader recognized nationally for her commitment to her faith and family and her mentorship for so many.

When I was elected as one of the first two Native American women to serve in Congress, she was standing right beside me.

I was proud to call her an inspiration and mentor. I am positive so many others would say the same.

Her impact on our world and our lands goes far beyond her recognitions, but I would be remiss if I didn't mention a few of them.

Marlene was the first Native American woman to be ordained in the Lutheran Church. She was cofounder of the National Native American Boarding Schools Healing Coalition, which is working to understand and address the trauma created by the U.S. Indian boarding school policy.

Marlene leaves behind a legacy filled with love, compassion, and service to our community. Our hearts are with her family: her husband, Harvey; two daughters; and her grandchildren.

I am just one of many Ho-Chunks who will miss her sincerely, miss her wisdom, and we say thank you to Marlene.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MICHAEL LONG

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JACOBS of California). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Republican New York delegation, I rise today in recognition of and to honor our good friend, Mike Long, the longtime chairman of the Conservative Party of New York. Mike passed away this week with his beloved family at his side, leaving behind an extraordinary life and legacy.

Mike Long was a man of integrity who lived a life of service above self.

He was among the most, if not the most, respected and esteemed political leaders in New York politics by both his allies and his political opponents.

Mike Long was proudly born in Brooklyn, New York, and was raised in southern Queens.

In 1959, Mike enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. He felt strongly that his duty was to our country, and as we know—and this was Mike—once a marine, always a marine.

Mike then served in elected office on the New York City Council and then for decades as chair of the New York Conservative Party, where he got to know nearly every State and Federal Republican and Conservative candidate for public office.

His chairmanship continued for more than 30 years, which is a testament to his character, his work ethic, his leadership, and his determination to make a difference.

In recognition of his strong defense of the rights of the unborn, Pope St. John Paul II named him a Knight of St. Gregory, one of the highest honors for a Catholic layman.

Mike was a champion for hard-working New Yorkers and a lifelong advocate for smaller government, lower taxes, and improving the lives of hard-working New York families.

My colleagues and I were all honored to call Mike a true friend.

When I first ran for office, I had met Chairman LONG at various Conservative Party events, but I set up a formal meeting to seek his advice. It was in his office in Brooklyn. That is a long way for an upstate New York native running in the North Country. I will be honest. I got lost in the city driving and was hours late for that meeting. It is a pet peeve of mine to be late, and, certainly, you never want to be late for a marine. It is a matter of respect to be on time.

Mike couldn't have been more gracious—I will never forget it—saying I will probably win my campaign because I know how to drive in upstate New York but clearly not in New York City.

I was proud to earn his support and that of the Conservative Party. My family was honored to have Mike and his wife, Eileen, at our wedding years later. He is a true lifelong friend.

Now, Mike is in Heaven among the angels, and our hearts are broken for this truly irreplaceable loss.

As I honor him for his service and an extraordinary life well lived today, we join together in praying for his beloved family, thousands and thousands of friends, and a vast community of admirers.

I am so honored to have my colleagues here today.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO), my colleague from central New York.

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Michael Long, who passed away on July 24, 2022.

Mike was a beloved member of the New York Conservative Party, a men-

tor to many, including myself, a dear friend, and a champion for New Yorkers. A Brooklyn native, Mike developed a love for his home State and his country at a young age.

Mike's sense of public duty led him to serve his country in the United States Marine Corps. Following that service, he began his decades-long career in politics. In 1981, he was elected to serve as a Brooklyn at-large representative on the New York City Council.

In 1988, Mike became the chair of the New York Conservative Party, a post that he retained until 2019. It was in this capacity that I got to know Mike and got to know Mike well.

The overriding thing I got from Mike was his sense of fairness, his sense of decency, his commitment to the cause, and endeavoring to make sure that the Conservative Party had a big tent, not a small, restrictive one.

The Conservative Party and all New York Republicans will miss Mike's guidance and his integrity.

Outside of politics, Mike was a devoted husband to his wife, Eileen, and father to their nine children.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring the life and legacy of Michael Long.

May he rest in peace.

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN), our colleague from Long Island, who is proudly the Republican and the Conservative Party nominee for Governor of New York State.

Mr. ZELDIN. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague for her leadership and all of my New York colleagues for being here today.

Mike Long was such a special, principled, faithful patriot. He loved his family. He loved his country. He was willing to lay down his life for it at any time, valuing our Constitution and our freedoms. Our State is better off because Mike Long lived this legendary life of service.

Jerry Kassar, the new New York State Conservative Party chair, has these really big shoes to try to fill. For all of us collectively, trying to figure out how to fill these shoes will be a challenge for us, but we accept that challenge with Mike's spirit and fight, his inspiration always living within each and every one of us. He was rock solid to his core, a genuine, great American.

To his entire family—obviously, his wife of nearly 60 years, Eileen, but they also have nine children, 24 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Everybody who knew and loved Mike Long is mourning the passing of a truly great public servant.

May Mike Long rest in peace. I thank him for his friendship, guidance, and service.

Now, it is left to the rest of us to carry on what was a legendary, inspirational contribution to the greatest country in the history of the world because of great marines and patriots like him.

May he rest in peace.

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. ZELDIN for his comments.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JACOBS), our colleague from western New York.

Mr. JACOBS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mike Long, one of our State's greatest political leaders.

Mr. Long served as chairman of the New York State Conservative Party for three decades.

An article in the New York Post that was recently written called Mike a working-class champion, and that he was. From the beginning of his career in politics, he believed Conservatives and Republicans must focus on what matters for working-class Americans. Mike's beliefs were as correct today as they were nearly 60 years ago when he began his career in public service.

I remember speaking with Mike for the first time when I was going to run for a special election for the New York State Senate several decades ago now. At that time, we were talking about his family, and Mike's son had just been in a near-fatal accident, run over by a New York City bus while he was riding a bicycle. His son Matt broke numerous bones and had countless surgeries as a result. But like his father, he had incredible grit and determination, and he not only recovered but continued to compete in triathlons and Ironman competitions.

Mike lived out his conservative principles. He was married to his wife, Eileen, for 59 years and had nine children, as was mentioned, and countless numbers of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Our State and Nation are a better place due to Mike Long's service and commitment to his principles.

May he rest in peace.

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. JACOBS for his comments.

This is fitting because my colleague from Staten Island, who represents Staten Island and parts of Brooklyn, was the longtime representative at the State level and in Congress for Mike and Eileen Long.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS).

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues and everyone who spoke before me for recognizing the great achievements of a great man.

Mike Long was somebody who I was proud to represent as a State assembly member and then in Congress. He is somebody who truly believed in faith, freedom, the American Dream, and family.

As was mentioned, he had an amazing, beautiful family, who I am also very proud to serve, as I represent many of them. They are so dedicated to our community of Brooklyn, to our city of New York, to our State, and to our Nation. All the children contribute in one way or another to the community that we are so proud to call home.

Mike served and led by example for his family. He was not just a marine who served our country, willing to die for our country. He was also a member of the City Council of New York. He was a small business owner. He was also the chairman of the Conservative Party, which made such an impression and was so influential in our city and State politics for decades and still continues to be because of the leadership of Mike Long.

When I first ran for the assembly, I was so proud to have the banner of the Conservative Party and to have the support of somebody like Mike Long, who had so much integrity and was so passionate about what we believed in: that our country needs to be preserved, that we must preserve our freedoms and our liberties, that we must make sure we respect the taxpayer, that we make it easier for small businesses, and that we support individual freedoms and liberties.

In fact, it was the Conservative Party that was the margin of victory in my very first race, and so I owe a lot of my success to Michael Long and his initial support of me.

So, I thank Mike Long for all he has done for our community, for the delegation, for our city, and for our country. He will be missed.

I give my sincere condolences to his wife, Eileen, their nine children, their 25 grandchildren, and their four great-grandchildren. That just shows you how truly dedicated he was to his family. It is just a beautiful family. God bless them.

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Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, as you heard from all the New York Republican Members of Congress, Mike's influence cannot be over emphasized. He has touched tens of thousands of lives over his decades of service and really his lifetime of service.

As many of our Members talked about, Mike Long was a man of principle. Mike was a man of faith, of freedom, of family, and he was a proud American.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, for the remainder of this Special Order we will have a number of Republican Members from around the country who will come up and address the big issues of the day, the continued crises, not the least of which is our economic crisis here on the eve of the latest GDP numbers that we all anticipate will confirm that we have a recession, even though the administration apparently can't even define what "re-

cession" is. Instead of trying to fix the problems, they are trying to work on the definition of words.

Madam Speaker, I yield first to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER).

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana.

Madam Speaker, I am FRED KELLER. My pronouns are he and him, and I am a man standing at the podium wearing a blue suit, demanding that border czar, KAMALA HARRIS, get serious about securing our southern border, rather than playing identity politics.

The number of illegal aliens crossing at our southern border has already surpassed last year's record of 1.7 million encounters. The U.S. Border Patrol confirmed in its latest report that there were over 200,000 encounters in June alone, the fourth consecutive month that encounters have been this high.

Border Patrol's report also revealed that 15,000 unaccompanied children were apprehended and released to sponsors without verification or documentation to ensure those sponsors are legal residents or U.S. citizens.

This loophole in the Biden administration's sponsor assessment process puts these children in danger by exposing them to illegal activity, human trafficking, and other dangers.

Yet, in the same month that this report was released, Secretary Mayorkas said that the border was secure. Meanwhile in Congress, Democrats refuse to hold a hearing on securing the southern border. In fact, Republicans on the Oversight Committee have requested a hearing on this issue, not just once, not just twice, but six times. Every request has been ignored by the Democrat majority on the committee.

Beyond their blatant detachment from reality, the Biden administration and House Democrats have made it clear they are unwilling to take action to secure our border and protect Americans.

With a new majority after the November elections, Republicans in Congress will tackle this issue head-on.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend; that was so well said. As we told Secretary Mayorkas in a Judiciary Committee hearing just a few months ago, clearly what he is doing is intentional, and I believe that he needs to dust off his résumé because we are going to have the majority soon, and there will be a reckoning for that.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY).

Mr. TIFFANY. Madam Speaker, I live in northern Wisconsin over 1,000 miles away from the southern border. Yet, the impacts of President Biden's open border are being felt right in our backyard.

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to meet with the Sawyer County Sheriff's Office where they shared the local impacts that they are feeling from the Biden administration's open border, especially from illegal drugs.